

# HEALING SPEECH, WANDERING NAMES, CONTESTS OF WORDS

## IDEAS ABOUT LANGUAGE IN EURIPIDES

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## Preface

ἔστιν οὐ σιγή λόγου  
κρείσσων γένοιτ' ἄν, ἔστι δ' οὐ σιγῆς λόγος.  
(Euripides, *Orestes* 638-9)

This dissertation on 'Ideas about Language in Euripides' presents a part of the research and writing that I have done in the context of the NWO-funded programme 'The Limits of Language' (360-30-090). Two related studies, presented separately, are listed in the bibliography and referred to in the appropriate places.

In the preface to his novella *Out of Focus* (Dublin: The O'Brien Press 1977), the Irish librarian and author Alf MacLochlain memorably writes:

My wife did not do any of the typing, and remains convinced that the whole thing is a complete waste of time.

The text processing of this dissertation is, similarly, all my own, but I have been lucky to have enjoyed the support, help and encouragement of a number of people, not least my wife; and I thank all persons and institutions that enabled me to spend one more half-decade studying a language that I love, and reading and re-reading an author for whom my admiration has only increased as I went along.

Vleuten/Alkmaar, August 2010

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